

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9265
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UNCLAS CARACAS 6639

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, VE
SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS ON PURCHASE OF FISHING FLEET

REF: STATE 151188, CARACAS 05689

1. NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF TRAWLER OWNERS ASSOCIATION (AVINCASA) ARE CONTINUING BUT FISHERMEN HAVE RESUMED OPERATIONS AND ARE REPORTEDLY SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVING SIX MILE LIMIT. FISHERIES OFFICE SPOKESMAN ASSERTS THAT ISSUES OTHER THAN OUTRIGHT PURCHASE ARE BEING DISCUSSED AND SPECULATED THAT RESOLUTION MAY TAKE FORM OF GOVERNMENT CREDITS FOR PURCHASE OF NEW EQUIPMENT WHICH WOULD ENABLE TRAWLERS TO PROFITABLY FISH FARTHER FROM COAST THAN IS NOW POSSIBLE. VESSELS COULD BE MODERNIZED AT AN ESTIMATED \$30,000-\$40,000 PER CRAFT. NO FIGURE FOR PURCHASE OF FLEET AND EQUIPMENT HAS BEEN PUT ON THE TABLE, SPOKESMAN STATES.

2. OBJECTION TO TRAWLING WITHIN SIX MILES OF COAST COUCHED IN CONSERVATIONIST TERMS. OTHER, MORE SELECTIVE MEANS OF FISHING BESIDES TRAWLING, ARE PERMITTED AND THERE IS NO TONNAGE LIMIT ON VESSELS FISHING WITHIN COASTAL WATERS.

3. AVINCASA MEMBERS JOINTLY OWN AND OPERATE DOCKS, WAREHOUSES, ICE FACILITIES AND OTHER RELATED EQUIPMENT. SHOULD THE NOW DOUBTED DEAL BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION AND THE GOVERNMENT BE CONSUMMATED, THESE FACILITIES WOULD ALSO CHANGE HANDS.

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